

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 /054 W

----- 022749

R 240956Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9336

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

DEPCHIEF UDORN

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 19995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LA, TH

SUBJ: LAO MILITARY TRAINING IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 18710, 19139, 19285

1. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE FORTHCOMING RTG POSITION TOWARD CONTINUATION OF TRAINING OF LAO FORCES BY THAI ARMED FORCES IN THAILAND. MOST RECENTLY, ON DECEMBER 23, AMBSSADOR RAISED MATTER WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE KRUE. KRUE DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON SUBJECT AND MADE NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSE, AND WE HAVE NO REASON EXPECT CHANGE IN THAI POSITION.

2. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT PATHET LAO HAVE EVER EXPRESSED SPECIFIC CONCERN OVER TRAINING IN LAO IN THAILAND, BUT THEY ARE SENSITIVE TO THAI GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES INVOLVING LAOS. ON DECEMBER 20, FOR EXAMPLE, NEWSPAPER BANGKOK POST REPORTED THAT, IN BROADCAST MONITORED IN HONG KONG, PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY HAD ACCUSED RTG PREVIOUS DAY OF PROVOCATIVE ACTS AGAINST LAOS ALONG THE MEKONG

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RIVER. ACCORDING TO BROADCAST, THESE ACTS CON-

SISTED OF INVASION OF LAO TERRITORIAL WATERS AND
FIRING ON AND SINKING LAO CIVILIAN BOATS IN LAO
WATERS BY THAI MILITARY CRAFT. (BANGKOK POST
ALSO QUOTED THAI MILITARY ATTACHE IN VIENTIANE
AS DENYING THESE STORIES.)

3. WE NOTE FROM MILITARY TRAFFIC THAT ALTERNATE
PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO PICK UP ESSENTIAL TRAINING
OF LAO IN CONUS. WHILE WE INTEND TO CONTINUE
OUR EFFORTS HERE, WE BELIEVE PROSPECTS ARE POOR, IN ABSENCE
OF OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM PGNU, AND THAT SUCH PLANNING IS PRUDENT.
KINTNER

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NNN

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